

Genocide In The OT

(Did He Really Wipe Out Whole People Groups?)

Resources Used for This Topic Include:

- David T. Lamb: **God Behaving Badly**
- Preston Sprinkle: **The Fight**
- Paul Copan and Matthew Flannagan: **Did God Really Command Genocide?**

Some things to remember:

When you read the Bible you have to distinguish between what _____ and what _____

And do you take the Bible _____?

In other words—when you read a text—KNOW IT'S _____—but it may not be _____.

Also—when an author is writing—many times the writer is expressing his own emotions and anxieties and wishes—_____ the _____ of God.

Copan puts it this way: **“God’s being the author of the Bible does not mean he _____ everything that the human author _____.”**

When we read these texts of genocide and other hard texts you have to understand the _____ and _____ and _____ of the times.

Proper interpretation requires more than simply paying attention to the _____.

Let’s all agree that the commands narrated are understood as _____ commands.

The text indicates that the Canaanites are _____ land of which Israel has legal ownership—and without the consent of the owner.

Israel had to wait many generations—including having to endure slavery in Egypt—before it could take possession of the land because the Canaanites were not yet sufficiently _____ to judge (Gen 15:16).

The kinds of wickedness the Canaanites engaged in were not trivial: incest, adultery, bestiality, ritual prostitution, homosexual acts, and most significantly, child sacrifice (Lev 18, Deut 12:29-31).

Israel also faced the danger of corrupting influences and the risk of _____ (Deut 7:4; 20:18, etc.)

The dominant language used in Scripture is NOT _____ but of “ _____ ”

Look at Numbers 33:51-56. Look at Deut 7:17-19, 20-23

Ex 23:28-31; 34:11; Num 32:21; 33:52-55; Deut 4:38,7:1; 9:3-6; 11:23; 18:12; 33:27; Josh 3:10; 14:12; 17:18; 23:5)

There is no command to _____, _____ down the Canaanite people. That would be genocide—That is not what we see here!

The phrase “women and children” was a stock phrase to mean “ _____ ”.

Let's do some comparisons:

- Josh 10:20a vs. Josh 10:20b
- Josh 10:30 vs. Josh 11:21
- Josh 11:21. Vs Josh 15:13-14
- Josh 1:8. Vs. Judges 1:21
- Josh 11:23. Vs. Judges 2:21,23

Reading the Bible in context I suggest reading Judges _____ and Joshua as _____ history (the type of biography that puts the subject in a very flattering light).

Joshua is _____! That's the way the military victories were written in that culture and in that time.

Conclusions:

1. Joshua 1-11 uses _____ **language** of exterminating all and leaving no survivors right **alongside** narratives that affirm matter-of-factly that large numbers of **people** were _____ **killed** and many survived.
2. Those who wrote these Bible books were **not** _____. So it is likely they intended for both to be taken as true.
3. _____ reads as more down to earth history while _____ reads more of a ritualistic, stylized, hyperbolic account as you would expect in that time and culture.
4. Read Josh 11:12, 14-15, 20. **So if Joshua did just as Moses commanded**, and if Joshua's description was really massive hyperbole then clearly Moses himself did _____ intend a _____ Canaanite destruction.
5. The command was **not to** _____ every single Canaanite or even the vast majority, **but to** _____ **THEM**, killing only those who remained and did not leave.
6. The **lament** in Judges is not that they didn't _____ them all but that they didn't drive them out (Judges 1:27,29, 30, 31, 33).
7. Remember to distinguish between what " _____ " and what " _____ " when reading the Bible.

Next Pastor's Perspective will be **October 30th**! "What About The Age of the Earth? Is Seven Days the Only Way?"